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CORRESPONDENCE.

"EVILLY DISPOSED."

To the Editor of the Assurance Magazine.

SIR,—In your recent review of my book on the Law of Fire Insurance your reviewer protests against the use of an expression which he seems to consider clearly indefensible. "Evilly disposed" is the offender; and as I gather from the letters italicised, the "ly" is the offence. As I cannot deny the charge, perhaps you will allow me in legal language "to confess and avoid" it by submitting that two authors of undoubted authority—Shakespeare and Jeremy Taylor—use the obnoxious termination. Thus we find in "King John," Act iii., s. 4—

"This act, so evilly born, shall cool the hearts
Of all his people, and freeze up their zeal."

And in Taylor's "Holy dying," Book iv., s. 1—

"It will be an unhandsome injustice evilly to requite their care by thy too anxious and impatient spirit."

The review is so friendly in its tone, and so far overestimates the merits of my little Essay, that in this instance I would willingly kiss the rod, if I felt that it was deserved—but it appears to me, that a verbal criticism thus made, should not be allowed to pass unchallenged unless plainly right. The expression "evilly disposed" may be slightly archaic; but I contend that it is as structurally correct as its convertible term "evil disposed," if indeed it is not more so, as well as more euphonious; since it is to an unwillingness to use the word "evil" adverbially, that we may perhaps trace its almost invariable modern contraction to "ill" when in composition.

I remain, Sir,

Yours,

19, *Serjeant's Inn, Fleet Street,*
6th March, 1869.

C. J. BUNYON.

CORRECTION OF AN ERROR IN THE ENGLISH LIFE TABLES
(No. 1 MALES).*To the Editor of the Assurance Magazine.*

SIR,—As some Offices adopt the English Life (No. 1 Males), 4 per cent annuities, when converting annual into single payments, it may be advisable to point out that, at age 35, the value of an annuity should be 15·7006, and not, as it is printed in the Sixth Registrar General's Report, 15·6645.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

Glasgow, 6th Jan., 1869.

T. M.